THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The Government of India do not favour the setting up of any new medical college in the country as the annual out-turn of medical graduates from the existing medical colleges is considered sufficient to meet the medical Manpower requirements of the country. Emphasis is laid on the consolidation and improvement of the existing facilities for training medical Manpower.

Provision of essential Drugs in the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Hospital

*30. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 7th June, 1985 highlighting the appalling conditions in the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Hospital, Delhi and the difficulties being faced by the patients and their relatives who are asked to provide the non-available drugs and other essentials; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation in the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

This hospital is under the direct supervision and control of Delhi Administration. Delhi Administration has reported that the shortages of medicines has occurred as an aftermath of a fire incident which took place in the stores of the Hospital in December, 1984. Corrective actions have been initiated by Delhi Administration to urgently replenish the stocks. The shortages are being met through local procurement and through expeditious supply of drugs from the Medical Stores Depot (MSD) of the Union Government.

Infant mortality rate

*31. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine million children die due to malnutrition every year in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that the high infant mortality rate acts as a disincentive to family planning; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to reduce the infant mortality rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) No, Sir. Surveys conducted by Registrar General of India in rural areas in 1982 show that out of total deaths in the age group 0-4 years 7.4% children die of malnutrition.

(b) and (c) Low infant mortality is generally associated with low fertility. Therefore, maternal and child health care has been made an integral part of the family welfare programme. Measures to improve and strengthen the maternal and child care Programme include expansion of the existing health infrastructure, training of manpower, health education, adoption of risk approach universal immunization of children control of diarrhoeal diseases, prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia and supplementary nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.